

\*E-Filed 6/25/14\*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

VINCENT PRICE MCCOWAN,

No. C 13-0407 RS (PR)

Plaintiff,

**SECOND ORDER OF SERVICE;**

v.

**ORDER DIRECTING DEFENDANTS  
TO FILE DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR  
NOTICE REGARDING SUCH  
MOTION;**

B. HEDRICK, et al.,

Defendants.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK**

**INTRODUCTION**

This is a federal civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a *pro se* state prisoner. In response to plaintiff's third amended complaint (Docket No. 28), defendant A. Avalos is directed to file a dispositive motion or notice regarding such motion on or before October 15, 2014, unless an extension is granted. The Court further directs that defendants are to adhere to the notice provisions detailed in Sections 2.a and 10 of the conclusion of this order. The first order of service (Docket No. 25) is VACATED.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. Standard of Review**

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity.

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1 See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and  
 2 dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may  
 3 be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See id.*  
 4 § 1915A(b)(1),(2). *Pro se* pleadings must be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica*  
 5 *Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

6 A “complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim  
 7 to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009)  
 8 (quoting *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). “A claim has facial  
 9 plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the  
 10 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.* (quoting  
 11 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). Furthermore, a court “is not required to accept legal conclusions  
 12 cast in the form of factual allegations if those conclusions cannot reasonably be drawn from  
 13 the facts alleged.” *Clegg v. Cult Awareness Network*, 18 F.3d 752, 754–55 (9th Cir. 1994).  
 14 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1)  
 15 that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2)  
 16 that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See*  
 17 *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

## 18 **B. Legal Claims**

19 Plaintiff alleges that (1) Salinas Valley State Prison correctional officer A. Avalos, in  
 20 2012, filed a false disciplinary report against him, thereby violating his due process rights;  
 21 (2) Salinas Valley State Prison nurse Divina Druz sexually harassed him by asking to see his  
 22 penis, thereby violating his Eighth Amendment rights; (3) law librarians, correctional officers  
 23 and prison wardens mishandled his legal mail and prevented law library access; and (4) the  
 24 federal judge presiding over this action violated his constitutional rights.

25 Claim 1, when liberally construed, appears to state a claim under § 1983. Claim 2 is  
 26 DISMISSED without leave to amend. A single instance of verbal harassment, such as the  
 27 one alleged in the present complaint, does not implicate the Eighth Amendment’s strictures  
 28

1 against the sexual abuse of prisoners. *See Austin v. Williams*, 367 F.3d 1167, 1171–72 (9th  
2 Cir. 2004) (upholding summary judgment dismissal of an Eighth Amendment claim in which  
3 a prison guard exposed himself to prisoner in elevated, glass-enclosed control booth for no  
4 more than 30-40 seconds and never physically touched prisoner). Because Claim 3 involves  
5 different defendants and facts than the other claims, it is DISMISSED without prejudice. *See*  
6 Fed. R. Civ. P. 15 and 20. If plaintiff wishes to pursue Claim 3 in this Court, he may do so  
7 by filing a separate civil rights action.

8 Claim 4 is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. A federal judge is absolutely immune  
9 from civil liability for acts performed in his or her judicial capacity and, unlike the judicial  
10 immunity available to state judges sued under § 1983, a federal judge's immunity is not  
11 limited to immunity from damages, but extends to actions for declaratory, injunctive and  
12 other equitable relief. *See Moore v. Brewster*, 96 F.3d 1240, 1243 (9th Cir. 1996); *Mullis v.*  
13 *U.S. Bankruptcy Court*, 828 F.2d 1385, 1394 (9th Cir. 1987) (applying judicial immunity to  
14 actions under *Bivens*). **A. Avalos is the sole defendant in this action.** The Clerk shall  
15 terminate all other defendants from this action.

### 16 CONCLUSION

17 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

18 1. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States  
19 Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint in this matter, all  
20 attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon Correctional Officer A. Avalos at Salinas  
21 Valley State Prison. The Clerk shall also mail courtesy copies of the complaint and this  
22 order to the California Attorney General's Office.

23 2. No later than ninety (90) days from the date of this order, defendants shall file a  
24 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the claims in the  
25 complaint found to be cognizable above.

26 a. If defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds plaintiff  
27 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),  
28

1 defendants shall do so in a motion for summary judgment, as required by *Albino v. Baca*, No.  
2 10-55702, slip op. at 4 (9th Cir. Apr. 3, 2014) (en banc).

3           b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate  
4 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of  
5 Civil Procedure. Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor  
6 qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If any defendant is of the opinion  
7 that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the Court prior to  
8 the date the summary judgment motion is due.

9           3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and  
10 served on defendants no later than forty-five (45) days from the date defendants' motion is  
11 filed.

12           a. In the event the defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss  
13 under Rule 12(b), plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:

14           The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b) of the  
15 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not exhausted your administrative  
16 remedies. The motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of your case. When a party you  
17 are suing makes a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, and that motion is properly  
18 supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony) and/or documents, you may not simply  
19 rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations,  
20 depositions, answers to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown in the  
21 defendant's declarations and documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your  
22 claims. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to dismiss, if  
23 appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

24           4. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than fifteen (15) days after  
25 plaintiff's opposition is filed.

26           5. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No  
27 hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.  
28

6. All communications by the plaintiff with the Court must be served on defendants, or defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to defendants or defendants' counsel.

7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

8. It is plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

9. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

10. A recent decision from the Ninth Circuit requires that *pro se* prisoner-plaintiffs be given "notice of what is required of them in order to oppose" summary judgment motions at the time of filing of the motions, rather than when the court orders service of process or otherwise before the motions are filed. *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 935 (9th Cir. 2012).

**Defendants shall provide the following notice to plaintiff when they file and serve any motion for summary judgment:**

The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact — that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants' declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition,

summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

*Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 962–63 (9th Cir. 1998).

11. Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Docket No. 27) is DENIED as moot, the Court having granted his prior application.

12. The Clerk shall terminate Docket No. 27.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED: June 25, 2014

  
RICHARD SEEBORG  
United States District Judge

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California